

Amendments to the Claims: This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) ~~[[-]]~~ ~~Adjustable~~An adjustable transfer unit for transferring upright and aligned articles from a first to a second conveyor, of the type comprising a thrusting wheel ~~(1)~~ driven in a rotary fashion by driving means ~~(6)~~ and having radial blades ~~(2, 3)~~, a curved support track ~~(4)~~ provided below said radial blades ~~(2, 3)~~ between a delivery end ~~(31)~~ of an inlet conveyor ~~(30)~~ and a reception end ~~(41)~~ of an outlet conveyor ~~(40)~~, and railing means ~~(5)~~ along at least one part of said support track ~~(4)~~, ~~characterised~~characterized in that said inlet conveyor ~~(30)~~ is a conveyor adapted to convey articles ~~(A, B)~~ upright on their base ~~(A1, B1)~~ on a transfer surface ~~(32)~~ and said outlet conveyor ~~(40)~~ is an overhead conveyor adapted to convey articles ~~(A, B)~~ hanging from a projecting configuration ~~(A2, B2)~~ on a top part thereof along lifting guides ~~(42)~~ of the overhead outlet conveyor ~~(40)~~, with said support track ~~(4)~~ of the transfer unit being connected to vertical movement means ~~(7, 8)~~ that can be driven to adapt the vertical distance between said support track ~~(4)~~ and said lifting guides ~~(42)~~ of the outlet conveyor ~~(40)~~ to articles ~~(A, B)~~ having said projecting configuration ~~(A2, B2)~~ at different heights.

2. (Currently Amended) ~~[[-]]~~ ~~Unit~~The unit, according to claim 1, ~~characterised~~characterized in that said support track ~~(4)~~ can be moved by said vertical movement means ~~(7, 8)~~ between a top position suitable for small size articles ~~(A)~~, in which said support track ~~(4)~~ is substantially level with said transfer surface ~~(32)~~ of said inlet conveyor ~~(30)~~, and at least one lower position suitable for medium or large size articles ~~(B)~~, in which said support track ~~(4)~~ is at a lower level than said transfer surface ~~(32)~~ of inlet conveyor ~~(30)~~, with articles ~~(B)~~ passing from transfer surface ~~(32)~~ to said support track ~~(4)~~ by falling by their own weight as they are moved within areas delimited at least by said radial blades ~~(2, 3)~~ and said railing means ~~(5)~~.

3. (Currently Amended) ~~[[-]]~~ The unit~~Unit~~, according to claim 2, ~~characterised~~characterized in that said vertical movement means ~~(7, 8)~~ include at least one unit of a vertical sleeve ~~(7)~~ and nut ~~(8)~~.

4. (Currently Amended) ~~[[-]]~~ The unit~~Unit~~, according to claim 2, ~~characterised~~characterized in that said vertical movement means ~~(7, 8)~~ include at least one pair

of vertical sleeve ~~(7)~~ and nut ~~(8)~~ units connected together by means of a flexible traction element ~~(9)~~, such as a chain or belt, which flexible traction element ~~(9)~~ is driven by a pinion gear or drive pulley ~~(15)~~ connected to a power shaft of driving means ~~(10)~~ to rotate said vertical sleeves ~~(7)~~ in one direction or another.

5. (Currently Amended) [[-]] The unit~~Unit~~, according to claim 4, ~~characterised~~characterized in that said driving means ~~(10)~~ include a reducer unit.

6. (Currently Amended) [[-]] The unit~~Unit~~, according to claim 1, ~~characterised~~characterized in that said thrusting wheel ~~(1)~~ is made up of first and second circular structures ~~(11, 12)~~, coaxial, and said radial blades ~~(2, 3)~~ include first radial blades ~~(2)~~ attached to said first circular structure ~~(11)~~ and second radial blades ~~(3)~~ attached to said second circular structure ~~(12)~~, at predetermined angular separations along their respective circumferences, with adjustment and attachment means being provided ~~(16, 17, 18)~~ to adjust the relative angular position between both said first and second circular coaxial structures ~~(11, 12)~~ in order to adapt the separations between said first and second radial blades ~~(2, 3)~~ to different size articles ~~(A, B)~~.

7. (Currently Amended) [[-]] The unit~~Unit~~, according to claim 6, ~~characterised~~characterized in that it includes first and second inner wall parts ~~(13, 14)~~ attached respectively to said first and second circular coaxial structures ~~(11, 12)~~ and arranged on opposite sides of respective said first and second radial blades ~~(2, 3)~~, with said first and second inner wall parts ~~(13, 14)~~ being placed at different radial distances from the centre of said thrusting wheel ~~(1)~~ so that the former can rest at least partially superimposed on the latter when the separations between said first and second radial blades ~~(2, 3)~~ are reduced.

8. (Currently Amended) [[-]] The unit~~Unit~~, according to claim 6, ~~characterised~~characterized in that said driving means ~~(6)~~ of said thrusting wheel ~~(1)~~ include a reducer unit coupled to one of said first or second circular coaxial structures ~~(11, 12)~~ which in turn is joined to the other of said first or second circular coaxial structures ~~(11, 12)~~ by means of adjustment and attachment means ~~(16, 17, 18)~~.

9. (Currently Amended) [[-]] The unit~~Unit~~, according to claim 6, ~~characterised~~characterized in that said adjustment and attachment means ~~(16, 17, 18)~~ include guide means ~~(16)~~ of curved trajectory with respect to the centre of thrusting wheel ~~(1)~~ in one of said first or second circular coaxial structures ~~(11, 12)~~, guide followers ~~(17)~~ being attached to

the other of said first or second circular coaxial structures ~~(11, 12)~~ and arranged to move along said guide means ~~(16)~~, and releasable attachment means ~~(18)~~ for blocking first and second circular coaxial structures ~~(11, 12)~~ together in a selected angular position.

10. (Currently Amended) ~~[[-]]~~ . The unit~~Unit~~, according to claim 9, ~~characterised~~characterized in that said guide followers ~~(17)~~ are provided at the ends of separators ~~(19)~~ attached to one of said first or second circular coaxial structures ~~(11, 12)~~, with the other of said first or second circular coaxial structures ~~(11, 12)~~ resting on said separators ~~(19)~~.

11. (Currently Amended) ~~[[-]]~~ The unit~~Unit~~, according to claim 1, ~~characterised~~characterized in that a delivery end of said inlet conveyor ~~(30)~~ is made up of a transfer surface ~~(32)~~ level with a stationary support plane ~~(51)~~ arranged below the open bottom walls of drop chutes ~~(52)~~ associated with a rotary structure ~~(53)~~ of an article positioning machine ~~(50)~~, with said articles being pushed along said stationary support plane ~~(51)~~ by walls of said drop chutes ~~(52)~~ and diverted towards said transfer surface ~~(32)~~ by stationary deflecting means ~~(54)~~.

12. (Currently Amended) ~~[[-]]~~ The unit~~Unit~~, according to claim 6, ~~characterised~~characterized in that a delivery end of said inlet conveyor ~~(30)~~ is made up of a transfer surface ~~(32)~~ level with a stationary support plane ~~(51)~~ arranged below the open bottom walls of drop chutes ~~(52)~~ associated with a rotary structure ~~(53)~~ of an adjustable article positioning machine ~~(50)~~, with said articles being pushed along said stationary support plane ~~(51)~~ by walls of said drop chutes ~~(52)~~ and diverted towards said transfer surface ~~(32)~~ by stationary deflecting means ~~(54)~~, with drop chutes ~~(52)~~ of said adjustable positioning machine ~~(50)~~ having multiple compartments ~~(55)~~ of adjustable width for different size articles ~~(A, B)~~, with the adjustable positioning machine ~~(50)~~ being capable of filling several of said compartments ~~(55)~~ of each drop chute ~~(52)~~ with upright articles ~~(A, B)~~ during each turn of said rotary structure ~~(53)~~.

13. (Currently Amended) ~~[[-]]~~ The unit~~Unit~~, according to claim 12, ~~characterised~~characterized in that said predetermined angular separations between said radial blades ~~(2, 3)~~ along the respective said first and second circular coaxial structures ~~(11, 12)~~ are adapted to the separations between said drop chutes ~~(52)~~ in the rotary structure ~~(53)~~ of the

adjustable positioning machine ~~(50)~~ and can be adjusted according to the adjustment of said compartments ~~(55)~~ in said drop chutes ~~(52)~~.

14. (Currently Amended) ~~[[-]]~~ The unit~~Unit~~, according to claim 11, ~~characterised~~characterized in that said driving means ~~(6)~~ rotate said thrusting wheel ~~(1)~~ at a speed such that the radial blades thereof ~~(2, 3)~~ move at the same tangential speed as the drop chutes of rotary structure ~~(53)~~ of said adjustable positioning machine ~~(50)~~.